The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the local trade unions movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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RAIL SHOP EMPLOYES ARE RESISTING MODERN FEUDALISTS

Locked-out railroad shop men are exhibiting a solidarity and courage that should enlist every lover of justice to their cause. These workers, numbering approximately 150,000, are now in their ninth month of idleness because of the sordid profits-seeking policy of stock jugglers and financiers.

What was a strike on July 1 has since developed into a lockout by this greedy group, who ordered their managers to reject a settlement proposed by the president of the United States. Later they rejected the "Baltimore agreement," that has been accepted by the Baltimore & Ohio, the New York Central lines, and more than 100 other railroads.

The financiers, speaking through their agents, declare former employes must return under anti-union conditions. They refuse to recognize collective bargaining and will treat workers as individuals.

The railroads' debasing policy has resulted in a coal shortage that has brought suffering, disease and death to the nation. Only recently the president of the United States virtually made the same charge.

The shop men struck because they were being ground to pieces between the railroads and the railroad labor board. The latter forced the rate for track laborers to 23 cents an hour. This is a sample of the board's wage policy.

While resisting the board's assault on living standards the shop men were called upon to face a flank attack by the railroads which began contracting their construction and repair work to private corporations.

As the railroad labor board has no jurisdiction over these corporations the railroads' trickery resulted in longer hours, lower wages and a lowering of working standards.

The financiers believed they had evolved a perfect system. The transportation companies guaranteed them on railroad investments, with no check on the money they spend for supplies with corporations they control. They also believed unionism was destroyed and peonage established through their contracting with "paper" corporations.

Before this attack on living standards and gouging of the people, the railroad labor board stood helpless. It lacked the courage to make a ringing appeal to the American public as did Chairman Hooper when he pleaded for popular approval of the railroads' strikebreakers.

Among the railroads now denying justice to employes are: Pennsylvania, Lehigh Valley, Atlantic Coast Line, Delaware & Hudson, Southern Pacific, Rock Island, Burlington, Santa Fe, Norfolk & Western, and New York, New Haven & Hartford. These roads reveal their hypocrisy. When they want favorable legislation they talk of "serving the people." Now they flout the people and cause endless suffering as a result of their greed and their attempts to control the railroads.

These financiers are losing nothing. They were handed an injunction by the department of justice. The government supplied them guards which congress voted nearly $2,000,000 to pay. Strike-breakers and other costs are charged to operating expenses, which the public must meet through excessive passenger and freight rates.

Trade unionists and sympathizers should increase their efforts to acquaint the people with what is behind this lockout. The rapacity and feudalism of railroad financiers should be given the widest publicity. The people should also be informed of the policy of the railroad labor board, which bleats like a lamb to the railroads and roars like a lion to the shop men.

No public service corporation should be permitted to pursue the policy of these railroads.

They can be jerked before the bar of public opinion through vigorous agitation. Let no trade unionist be a party to the philosophy of Wall street, the railroad labor board and a large section of the public press.

LABOR'S "ADVISOR" UNMASKED. COMMUNIST IS "STOOL PIGEON"

New York, March 17.—Morris Kaufman, president of the International Fur Workers' union, has unmasked one r-r-revolutionist who has been praising Gompers' New York work with his slanderous tales against organized workers.

The r-r-revolutionist is M. J. Olgin, editor of a Jewish communist newspaper, who charged in his publication that members of the Fur Workers' union were "scabbing" because they opposed the officers' policies. Olgin said these members risked their lives.

To Olgin's surprise the fur workers asked the district attorney to investigate the charges.

Frightened at his unexpected position, Olgin called upon President Kaufman to join with him in settling the matter in a "labor court," that could be created for that purpose.

The slanderer was trapped and he knew it. He no longer was the assertive, blatant r-r-revolutionist. Instead, he sniveled and fawned to the trade unionist that their differences could be settled "in a comradely way."

In a letter to Olgin, President Kaufman told the r-r-revolutionist like a load of concrete and told him he is a stool pigeon, that he has aided strikebreakers and that the paper was started to disrupt trade unionism.

"You have employed every shameful method to disorganize our ranks and to smash our unions," said President Kaufman. "In your ambition to annihilate our organizations, you even dared to support the work of certain 'lefts' in our organization when they installed such a scab agency to disturb an election, a crime which they later admitted. During the entire period of your existent as spokesman of the 'lefts,' you have played the role of a stool pigeon in every organization which refused to give you financial support—in other words, graft. You have done it while you were the outside world the most terrible stories about these unions, ignoring the very fundamentals of labor ethics.

"Now, when you feel that you have been called to account in a place where every slanderer gets his dues, you put into sheep's clothing and say that quarrels between working class institutions must not be carried into the open, and you want us to withdraw our request to the district attorney to investigate your accusations, because to bring the matter into the open would injure the whole' labor movement.

"This is more impudence than we can grasp. You have tried to get control of our organization and you have been defeated again and again. And as a last resort you have undertaken to use a weapon that only irresponsible people would use.

"One goes to a labor court, of the labor movement, with one who believes in labor, ethics and organization morals. You are not brought up to such ethics; your sheet has never had them, therefore it has been helpful to destroy labor organizations.

"We will, therefore, not go with you to such a court. We want an investigation by the district attorney—we have in our files an information and we have prepared to show the district attorney your sheet plays the role of a stool pigeon and misinforms on every change in your sheet against the Furriers' union is a link in the chain in your campaign to destroy the unions."

BOSTON POLICE STRIKE AGAIN IN PUBLIC EYE

Boston, March 17.—A state legislative committee has voted to reopen the case of Clark, one of the Boston police strikers of 1919, who, while a member of that force, was badly wounded by bandits. The committee's action, it is stated, is a step toward reopening the eligibility for reinstatement of other policemen.

A feature of the hearing was Representative John I. Fitzgerald's statement that the late Police Commissioner Curtis was misled by superior officers and that he would reopen certain phases of this situation but for his sudden death.

The policemen and trade unionists in general have insisted that the former were goaded into striking by provoking politicians. For many months the policemen attempted without success to improve their conditions. One of the real "minor complaints was that their sleeping quarters in some of the older station houses were overrun with rats. The policemen finally affiliated with the labor movement, but were ordered to withdraw, and were even compelled to disband their relief associations. After months of futile effort, with their more active associates discharged, they struck as a last resort. The strikebreakers were almost immediately given the conditions the policemen appealed for in vain. A large number of the strikers were overseas veterans, but this did not save them from wicked and unpatriotic charges.

After the strike started Governor Coolidge was press agented so effectively that he rolled in the vice president's chair. At that time the public press was about evenly divided between him and Governor Allen of Kansas. The latter had resurrected anti-strike legislation passed by the English parliament 100 years ago, and he palmed it off on the American people as his original idea.

The joy of newspaper editors over Allen's "discovery" bordered on hysteria.

Would Revert to Jungle; Wants Anti-Strike Law

Springfield, Ill., March 17.—Ben W. Bilharz, chairman of the United States railroad labor board, would revert to the jungle by making it a crime for workers to quit their employment in what he terms "essential industries." They may quit, according to his suggestion, only whenever the public is not inconvenienced.

If conditions of these workers is bad, Mr. Bilharz does not suggest that the public insist justice be done, but says it should be made a crime for these workers to strike.

This jungle reasoning by the railroad labor board head was delivered in a speech in this city to insurance agents. The speaker out Allenized former Governor Allen in advising workers who are forced to strike. He made no comment on the present policy of railroads who are responsible for the coal famine. His tirade was directed against workers who resort to the strike, which, he declared, "is the systematic, organized attack of force in the settlement of industrial controversies."

He did not label his system, which consists of jailing workers, and throwing the full power of government against those who dare to quit their employment.

COAL COSTS A SECRET.

Washington, March 17.—The federal trade commission is permanently enjoined by the supreme court of the District of Columbia from obtaining certain cost records or other information from the Maynard coal company. Under the law creating the commission it is empowered to demand this information from corporations engaged in interstate commerce.

The court rules that the company is not engaged in commerce, but that it is engaged in production. Numerous decisions by this and other supreme court are cited to support this view.

The supreme court of the district of Columbia took the same position in the case of a score of independent coal companies, which have been resisting the efforts of the commission to find production costs.

IRON MOLDERS STRIKE.

Wilmington, Del., March 17.—Iron molders employed in several large plants in this city have been forced on strike because of autocratic employers, and their demand for the closed anti-union shop, the employers refuse to meet the union's officials or deal with employes as union men.

BIG BAKERY DIVIDENDS.

New York, March 17.—The General Baking company announces a quarterly dividend of $1 a share on the common stock. Last December the company declared a 200 per cent stock dividend.

WAR-LAW VIOLATORS' FREEDOM IS URGED

New York, March 17.—Release of the prisoners convicted under the espionage act was urged by United States Senator Borah at a mass meeting in this city. The speaker said Senator Pepper of Pennsylvania investigated 28 of the 55 persons involving men still in prison for their political views, and that Senator Pepper reported that in not one of the cases "did the evidence justify a conviction."

Senator Borah said that the espionage act was wiped off the statute books shortly after the armistice because it was considered opposed to the principles of democracy.

"While the law has been repealed the men who have been sentenced under it are still in prison. Certainly the men ought to have been given their freedom at least at the time that we repealed the law.

"I am one of those who believe that when my country is at war that is a matter of duty we ought to surrender our individual views and get behind the government if we can," Senator Borah said. He favored free speech, and cited the opposition of Abraham Lincoln to the Mexican war. The speaker declared that Lincoln would have been sent to prison instead of the white house had the espionage act enforced during the world war been in effect then.

This case is not a mere question of the liberation of 53 men, he said. It involves the great underlying principle of free government.

VIEWPOINTS DIFFER WHEN ONE'S OX IS GORED

New York, March 17.—Stock brokers generally favor trade union regulation by law, but they unanimously oppose the regulation of stock exchanges so the public will be protected from crooked brokers.

Seymour L. Cromwell, president of the New York stock exchange, is leading the fight against regulation.

"Is it not time," he asks, "that the legitimate brokerage business, as represented by the stock exchange, should refuse to have the management of its affairs taken out of its hands, and that it should declare itself entirely capable of safeguarding the interests of the public?"

Mr. Cromwell says he and his associates have been hurried into success through the rotten practices of the stringuishes between legitimate brokers and dealers in blue-sky stock.

Every trade and industrial element that supports trade union incorporation and trade-union regulation by law is opposing stock exchange regulation.

CENSORS AID BAD BOOKS.

New York, March 17.—Obscure and salacious literature is being sent out in the list of best sellers through the activity of some prying censors, according to a letter written by Chief City Magistrate McAdoo to Police Commissioner Enright. The magistrate said that many a failing play has been turned into a success overnight with the aid of some reformer.

"And I am convinced," he said, "that the theater managers themselves are behind the movement to advertise their thoroughly rotten productions. But the law has broken down in effectively dealing with these matters, said the magistrate.

This breakdown, he said, is caused not because of the law but because of court decisions which are based on the evidence of those who have an interest in the production of plays, paintings and books. To remedy the situation Magistrate McAdoo referred to a decision by the New York supreme court which held that evidence from this source was incompetent and that the question of whether a play or book is immoral "is to be determined by their reaction on the ordinary citizen, the average man and woman of the average intelligence and having regard to what is conventionally considered decent and moral."

WANTS TAXES SHIFTED.

New York, March 17.—The national industrial conference board, composed of leading anti-union employers' associations, wants taxes shifted from the shoulders of those who have surpluses piled up. It is stated that the present income tax system is unfair to individual enterprise and makes inroads "on the surplus considered vital for our economic progress."

It is agreed that "the limits of taxable capacity have been reached, passed or at least that taxation is on the verge of becoming futile or destructive." The conference board appears satisfied if these "more or less unbearable taxes could be shifted to those less able to bear the burdgo.

BUSINESS MEN WANT JAPS.

Phoenix, Ariz., March 17.—Trade unionists are asking what kind of business men are in Winslow, this state. The Santa Fe railroad has installed Japanese strikebreakers in that place, and these business men have petitioned the state legislature to pass the Orme bill, which would repeal the state's anti-alien land bill. This would permit the sale of land to Japs.

SUGAR BEET BARONS EXPLOIT CHILDREN

Washington, March 17.—Under present wage standards in the sugar beet fields children will not be kept in school regularly and mothers will not be withdrawn from the fields to care for their children and the home, says the United States children's bureau in a report on child labor and the work of mothers in the beet fields of Michigan.

The report will be issued soon.

Of the 500 families studied either a child under 16 or a mother of a child under 6 worked in the beet fields in 1920.

Among the laborers' families nine out of 10 of the mothers having children under 6 years of age were found in the fields, and practically half the children under this age were usually taken by their parents to the fields. The babies were some times kept in boxes or baskets without shelter of any kind. Only half the young children who were left at home were cared for by adults. A few were cared for by brothers or sisters less than 7 years old, and some had no caretakers in the house. The mothers worked long hours in the fields and did house work in addition.

Several of the migratory laborers reported their wages were such that they would yield no more than the father alone was accustomed to earn in an equal period of time as regards the necessary statements by their parents.

Three-fourths of the children of school age had been absent from school on account of the beet fields, and sometimes were in bad repair. In many families from three to 10 were obliged to sleep in one and two-room dilated rooms. Occasionally a shack of tar paper or tin, or a caravan wagon, to be moved about from field to field required, was the only shelter provided.

STANDARD OIL JOKES

Washington, March 17.—Standard oil jokes when it says the people would turn to alcohol for motor purposes before they would pay $1 a gallon for gasoline, says Senator La Follette.

The senate investigating committee recently declared that it proposed to investigate Standard oil officials reply that the people would desert gasoline for alcohol.

Senator La Follette says this statement will bring no comfort to motorists unless there also is insurance that "Standard oil will not monopolize the patents and processes for the manufacture of alcohol for motor purposes." The senator also asked what produce would be used to manufacture alcohol in quantities of billions of gallons.

HOW LABOR IS PROTECTED.

Washington, March 17.—The present high tariff on sugar is defended on the ground that it "protects American labor," but this industry employs the Filipinos and Porto Ricans, according to a letter Senator David I. Walsh has received from the United States sugar association, which says:

"Hawaii employs 85 per cent of the labor in the sugar industry consists of Japanese, Chinese, and Philippine laborers, and Hawaiian sugar interests are now endeavoring before congress to obtain special legislation to allow them to import Chinese coolies to relieve the preponderance of Japanese labor there.

"Porto Rico employs Chinese to the extent from 30 to 40 per cent, and any other nationality, principally Spanish, because they will work for less, and their present labor elements are not satisfied with the present wages paid in addition to the sugar companies' profits.

"Japanese, Spanish, Filipinos and Hindus constitute the labor in the domestic beet industry of California.

"Mexican laborers, with their families and children prevail in Utah, Idaho, and Colorado.

"Russian-Germans and the surplus foreign labor supply of Europe centers principally in the beet employed in the rest of the states. This class is usually founded in and sometimes owns the farm of the factory and furnished to a farmer upon the basis of an acreage price of labor. They are the cheapest kind and class of labor that can be secured."

WANT LOW COAL TAXES.

Sunbury, Pa., March 17.—Anthracite coal owners are contesting this county's valuation of their property for taxing purposes. County experts hold that 25 cents a ton in the ground is a fair valuation, but this is 12 times too much, according to the coal owners. The coal is worth $12 a ton in Sunbury, 29 miles from the mines, or 660 times more than it is worth in the mines when it comes to laying taxes.

HUGE OIL PROFITS.

New York, March 17.—The Texas company, one of the largest of the independent oil companies, reports a net profit last year of $26,383,976.

UNEMPLOYMENT EVIL SHOULD BE REMOVED

Chicago, March 17.—The American Contractor, representing employing interests, declares unemployment is an industrial menace that should be solved by finding jobs, rather than by unemployment insurance.

"There are no limits to the amounts of needed and essentially useful public improvements which can be constructed during times of depression," says this publication.

"There is a scientific solution to the unemployment evil. If the engineering staffs of the government were to co-operate with private professional engineers in the laying out of plans for needed construction and improvements in both public and private enterprises there is no reason why a sufficient number of these projects could not be arranged.

"The problem is intricate and has many ramifications. Yet on the face of it there seems no reason why it should not be made to work quite effectively. By creating a reservoir of jobs there will be provided a form of unemployment insurance that would effectively prevent unemployment and maintain business at a more equitable level.

"Of the two forms of dealing with unemployment the latter seems much the better. British experience with unemployment doles has not been highly successful. The British have considerable talk in England of stopping the doles and turning the funds into the construction of public works, even at this late day."

ARIZONA TOWN CHANGED BY JAP IMPORTATIONS

Phoenix, Ariz., March 17.—The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad is employing Japanese in an effort to break the shop men's strike. In Winslow, Coconino county, this former white men, women and children. Consequently a shack of tar paper or tin, or a caravan wagon, to be moved about from field to field required, was the only shelter provided.

"Along with the great and varied racial problems facing the people of this state, there has now arrived that of the greater menace—the coolie Jap," says the Arizona Labor Journal. "In industrial war the corporations of Arizona may be expected to push their advantage. Arizona is face to face with the menace of the Jap in industry. We will come the menace of the Jap in trade. And it will follow swiftly and surely.

"The history of the Jap in California is about to be repeated in Arizona. So far, it is largely a labor problem, but it will soon be a problem for every man and woman of white blood in Arizona to consider. The Jap quickly graduates from the labor field."

That some land owners have joined the Jap-loving Santa Fe railroad is indicated by a bill introduced in the state legislature by Representative Orme to repeal the Arizona anti-alien land law. Orme is one of the largest land owners in Maricopa county. If the land law is repealed he will have much land to dispose of to Japs and other Orientals who can live under standards that would destroy white men.

OPPOSE STEEL GOUGE.

Cleveland, O., March 17.—The chamber of commerce declares that "Pittsburgh plus" is wrong in principal, "but there seems nothing that can be done about it."

This harmless position will be satisfactory to the steel owners, who profit to the extent of $1,500,000 a year from Cleveland alone by charging an inaugurary freight bill, known as "Pittsburgh plus."

Under this system steel producers there consumers the prices which prevail in Pittsburgh, with freight charges added, even though the steel is not produced in Pittsburgh. The result happens to be. "Pittsburgh plus" makes it impossible for any new material to give the public the benefit of any freight savings from Pittsburgh. It also puts the steel trust's mills in the vicinity of Pittsburgh on the same competitive level as those with near-by raw material.

Judge Gary and his associates are the originators of this phantom freight bill which gouges the people of millions of dollars annually.

FRESH AIR NECESSARY.

Washington, March 17.—The United States bureau of mines has issued a warning against sleeping in a room in which a flueless heater is burning without having an open window or other means for supply adequate ventilation. This precaution, it is stated, would have saved many deaths during the past few months.

The bureau says improper combustion of natural gas in heating appliances in common use may liberate carbon monoxide, an insidious and deadly gas. This gas is so deadly that quantities as low as 0.1 per cent may destroy life in a short time. Unlike illuminating and other gases, carbon monoxide is odorless; its presence can not be detected.

COAL OWNERS' POLICY MAY FORCE CONTROL

Washington, March 17.—State control of anthracite mines, hinted by congress, seems more practical, according to a statement by Senator Walsh, Democratic leader, in view of the average western and southern congressman and senator has no interest in anthracite and it is hard to interest them.

"Of course, I would prefer to see the state of Pennsylvania handle the question, but there is no use for the people of Pennsylvania waiting longer for local leadership," said Senator Walsh, in approving the principle of a bill now before the Pennsylvania legislature, which would regulate the anthracite industry.

The eastern lawmaker is not enthusiastic over the price being conducted by the United States coal commission, although he insists that some form of control is necessary.

"The abuses by reason of the shortage of coal, inadequate transportation, high prices and fireless coal have so aroused the consuming public that the alternative is strict control and regulation of the industry," he said.

"I for one refuse to sit by and allow these abuses to continue until they reach the stage where the people will give up in despair the belief that this government exists to protect them against extortion and fraud, these and other consequences of the mismanagement of so important an industry as the coal industry."

Senator Walsh called attention to the coal owners' Bobby Walker report, which, he said, "is skillfully managed, and most active."

"The whole smell is being wrung," he said, "for uncontrolled management of industries which have the power when contests arise between employer and employed to spread like a plague, suffering, distress and disease among law-abiding, honest, women people of this nation whose only demand is the ability to get what they need to maintain life at a reasonable fair price."

GOMPERS RESISTS PNEUMONIA ATTACK

New York, March 17.—President Gompers' strong vitality aided him in warding off a serious attack of pneumonia last night, it was said here as he recovering in Lennox hospital. Shortly after his arrival in this city he became ill and was hastened to the hospital as the flu and pneumonia developed.

Dr. Fisch, his attending physician, stated that he remain in the hospital until the end of the week of March 11-17, that every possible danger of a relapse be eliminated.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE URGED BY CHURCH MEN

New York, March 17.—The federal council of the churches of Christ has associated with other organizations in a national campaign to arouse the interest of international peace.

It is intended to hold 50 or more meetings in cities and towns in the vicinity of New York. It is stated that more than 2,000 similar meetings will be held throughout the United States and Canada. Parallel with these meetings clergymen and laymen will hold conferences on the same general subject. The organizations associated with the federal council are: Church peace union, the world alliance for international friendship through the churches and the world peace foundation of Boston.

CHILDREN NEED CARE.

New York, March 17.—The American relief association's physicians report that the health of children in Germany and Austria are born normal, whereas less than 10 per cent reach maturity in normal physical health.

"Much constructive work has been done by public and voluntary agencies in endeavoring to develop the proper type of leadership and citizenship from the care of those who have fallen by the wayside," the report declares, "but until the end, but the field in many sections of our country is as yet almost untouched," it is stated.

"TOM" FLYNN IS DEAD.

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 17.—Thomas Flynn, for nearly 25 years organizer of the American Federation of Labor, died in this city after a long illness. Deceased was a member of the International Brotherhood of Boiler Makers. He was an old-school trade unionist and was well grounded in the fundamentals of well-organized economic power. The funeral in this city was attended by Frank Morrison, secretary of the A. F. of L., and a large number of other trade unionists, whose acquaintance with the deceased has almost covered the life of the American Federation of Labor.

WANT RAIL PROFITS ASSURED BY PEOPLE

Boston, March 17.—Let the government guarantee profits of railroads is the significant suggestion by James C. Davis, director general of railroads, in a speech to railroad men in this city.

Under the law the interstate commerce commission is authorized to set a fair return, based on their valuation of railroads. The commission has permitted passenger and freight rates to be increased so that 5½ per cent is reached. But the larger roads have reached that figure and in a few cases have exceeded it. Other roads have not, and there is no provision in the law that the government aid them out of the treasury, as was done immediately after the war. Director General Davis wants to re-establish this system.

Under the present law managers have a free hand to spend money. Roads like the Pennsylvania, the Southern Pacific, Delaware & Hudson, New Haven, Atlantic Coast Line, Southern Pacific, Santa Fe and Rock Island expended vast sums since last July for strikebreakers and guards in their fight against the shop men. These sums are added to the cost of operating, which are passed on to the public. The same policy is followed by the purchase of equipment and supplies. Then the interstate commerce commission is asked to raise rates. Further increase railroads again sing their sob story of being "the football of demagogues."

RAILROAD EARNINGS REACH HIGH POINT

Washington, March 17.—The class 1 railroads of this country came within $5,034,188 last January of earning 5.7 per cent on the valuation set by the board, based on these properties by the interstate commerce commission. Net profits were 5.54 per cent.

These gains were made despite a coal famine that has been created by a national strike of union-smashing railroads, if these managements adopted the policy of more than 100 railroads and their differences with their employes, net profits would undoubtedly reach $65,688,888, or 5.7 per cent on the valuation set by the commission.

The reports expose the calamity howlers who insist that the railroads are on the verge of bankruptcy.

The fact of the matter is that no legislation has been considered by congress since 1920 that has met with the disfavor of the railroads. The Cummins-Esch law was frantically urged by the railroads. Under this law the interstate commerce commission fixes a "fair and adequate return" for the railroads. It sets a valuation on these properties.

CAR SERVICE IS FAULTY.

Washington, March 17.—The national coal association, representing the coal owners, has joined the grand anvil chorus against the railroads' inadequate car service. The coal owners declare that wherever coal shortages exist the railroads are to blame for the car roads.

Organized shop men have been making this statement for several months. Only recently President Harding and others, politicos, and now the coal owners make it unanimous. The railroads' policy of starving industry in this situation in the anthracite region are the Pennsylvania, the Lehigh Valley and the Delaware & Hudson. They are also leaders in the fight against the shop men.

ANTI-UNIONISTS FAIL.

Wheeling, W. Va., March 17.—The anti-union policy of the building contractors in this city has collapsed. These business men received a theory from the employers' agreements, recognized no trade unions or their wage scales. Business would disappear. The contract anti-union contractors discovered that their scheme was faulty in but one respect, and this was quite important—the unionists refused to work for them.

FARM TAXES DOUBLED.

Washington, March 17.—Taxes on farm lands have more than doubled during the last eight years, according to a survey by the department of agriculture. Public schools and roads were the principal causes.

BARBERS ORGANIZE.

Indianapolis, March 17.—General Secretary-Treasurer Fischer, of the Journeymen Barbers' International union, reports that new locals have been organized at Haynesville, La., and Portage, Pa.

TAX LAND MONOPOLY IS AUSTRALIAN CRY

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, March 17.—Premier Fuller's land policy is causing favorable comment labor because he would borrow money from money lenders, then buy land from the landlords and sell it to farmers and settlers.

Enormous sums of money would be required for this purpose, which is declared "an abject surrender to the land monopolists."

In taxing labor's opposition the Australian Worker calls for a tax on land held out of use sufficiently high enough to force the owners to throw this land—now held for speculative purposes—on the market, thereby cheapening the price of land and permitting it to be sold to the small capitalists farmers. The opposition afore mentioned drives the sons of the farmers into the cities to seek from the pavements the employment and profits offer them at prices so high, so oppressive, that unfortunate buyers abandon the discover, in a generation of drudgery, disillusion and despair, that their last case was worse than their first.

"Freedom begins with the land on which, in the last, resource, we all depend even for our existence and for our progress, for our happiness.

"And the simplest, the most just and effective way to get the land is to impose a progressive tax upon it—one that will render it unprofitable to withhold it from its highest use."

Women's "Equality" Bill Favored by Employers

St. Paul, Minn., March 17.—Employers in this state are behind the so-called women's "equality" bill now pending in the state legislature.

The national women's party first proposed an amendment to the federal constitution, but is now launching a campaign before state legislatures to remove the laws protecting women. Trade unionists always favored this plan, but the employers, now being employed, the workers declare, would wipe out all legislation favorable to working women, and employers and their sympathizers would remove these laws by legislative enactment, rather than by a blanket statute that will sweep away the good as well as the bad.

"Manufacturers could never have thought up such a good scheme against working women," said former Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin. "We must talk equality, let's talk equality of leisure, so that working women may have the time to be human. We can't have economic equality as long as we have a system that deliberately tabbed the life of women in industry. This bill would remove every vestige of protection from women."

FOOD INCREASED IN YEAR.

Washington March 17.—Food prices increased for the year period February 15, 1922, to February 15, 1923, in 51 cities in a compilation based on the decrease reported in eight cities, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics.

The cities that showed increases are: Pittsburgh, 4 per cent; Denver, Little Rock, and Portland, Me., 2 per cent; Boston, Norfolk, Va., and Seattle, 3 per cent; Baltimore, Butte, Dallas, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and St. Louis, 1 per cent; Philadelphia, less than one-half of 1 per cent.

The cities showed decreases as follows: Omaha, Salt Lake City and Scranton, 1 per cent; Manchester, New Haven, D. C., 1 per cent; Manchester, Norfolk, and San Francisco, less than one-half of 1 per cent.

GARMENT WORKERS OUT.

Philadelphia, March 17.—Defeated in attempts to secure an adjustment of grievances, organized waist and dress makers throughout the city struck for work. The manufacturers rejected a proposal that the eight points at issue a committee be appointed to investigate conditions in this industry and submit recommendations. The leaders are battling for the anti-union shop and they have a commission would recommend collective bargaining.

TEACHERS TO MEET.

Chicago, March 17.—Officers of the American Federation of Teachers, affiliated with the A. F. of L., have issued a call for the next convention to be held in this city beginning Wednesday, July 11.